



Louise Muriel Madsen

January 30, 1925 - December 25, 2020

Louise Muriel (Buness) Madsen went to be with her Lord December 25, 2020, leaving behind four grown children: Heidi Madsen of Portland OR, Sonja and her husband Bud Herigstad of Dundee OR, Carl Madsen of Portland OR, and Victor and his wife Carmel Madsen of Troutdale, OR. She also leaves behind eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Louise was born in Powers Lake, North Dakota to Norwegian settlers Clarence and Tena Buness. She was 2nd of 7 children: Everett, Louise, Corinne, Evelyn, James, Dorothy, Margaret. (James and Margaret died in infancy.) All her siblings preceded her in death.

Louise was the great granddaughter of Bardo and Karen Breeding who were instrumental in helping establish Bethel Norwegian Baptist Church of White Earth which was later moved to Powers Lake North Dakota under the foundational guidance of Olaf Breeding, her grand uncle. Louise's Buness grandparents and Aunt Inga were all charter members. They met in a one-room schoolhouse for prayer, worship and fellowship. Louise came to faith in Christ there at age 10 and was later baptised. Her interest in going overseas was sparked by the sharing of some missionaries from Ethiopia in a ladies meeting there.

Louise's hardiness and pioneering spirit were formed there on the North

Dakota prairie. Her father and his brother Bjarne Bunes (wife Maren + five kids) farmed adjacent properties so the families worked, worshipped, played and schooled together. Then came the Dust Bowl and 6-7 years of crop failure just prior to and during the depression. In 1937 the family joined Tena Bunes's family in Tacoma WA to celebrate her parent's 50th wedding anniversary. The family didn't return to Power's Lake because Bjarne told Clarence there was again no crop; nothing to come back for. Clarence went back to sell the farm and dispose of everything. He returned to Tacoma, taking any physical labor possible to provide for the basic needs of the family and to send the rest back to ND to pay off the mortgage incurred during the "hard years". Tena's bachelor uncle loaned the family \$2500 to buy a home. Tena and the children worked in the fields in the summers until they had repaid the loan.

Louise had completed grades 1-7 in a one-room schoolhouse with about 30 students. In Tacoma, she entered 8th grade with 800 students. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1942 just after Pearl Harbor whereupon she worked at Mt. Rainer war plant patching inner tubes for army vehicles. During High School, Pastor Marion Flint of Bethesda Baptist Church, the church they walked to the first week they were in Tacoma, led a vibrant ministry of the high school students in prayer and outreach. He encouraged Louise in her desire to be a missionary. So Louise attended Multnomah School of the Bible in 1943-46 doing VBS and door-to-door evangelizing during the summers. After that she worked for a year and a half as Bethesda's church secretary and served in the Children's work. During this time she learned about the newly formed Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society. In order to apply, she completed her BA in Education at PLU in 3 years, graduating in 1951.

In January of '48, a plane crash in Belgium Congo resulted in the deaths of 3 missionaries. Louise was one of those who responded to the call "Who will take their place?" She was appointed in 1951 and served with CBFMS in

Belgium Congo/Zaire/DRC for 39 years, first learning French to do so. Louise taught mostly high school students, but also teachers and widows. During her years Louise adapted and went through the upheaval of Belgium Congo's independence, four evacuations, including a 10-day ordeal when 14 missionaries were captured while trying to evacuate. Louise also adjusted her personal life when she married widower Richard Madsen and helped raise his four children.

Upon retirement, Richard and Louise Madsen returned to Tacoma, WA and to her beloved Bethesda Baptist Church. They saw the wisdom of moving closer to family in their later years, settling in Newberg OR at The Friendsview Retirement Community and joining Grace Baptist Church. Louise served on the Spiritual Care Team at Friendsview as well as the Missions Groups at GBC. She was enjoyed and loved by many wherever she lived!

Louise loved beauty: flowers, clothing, pretty glass dishes; collecting stamps, coins, cookies and keys; and keeping in touch with loved ones in the States and overseas. Her address book was one of her treasured possessions. She was a night owl... when she could work without interruption. So she was often awake when calls came from beloved former students in Africa. Louise also had a passion for helping any of her grandkids who were interested in furthering their education. Her fascinating story telling and cheery disposition will be greatly missed.

In lieu of flowers, Louise hoped others would help her granddaughter Hannah finish her stint with ELIC China whom she was supporting at the time of her death.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ *This photo of Louise as a young woman shows the same sweet smile that I remember so well. Louise always seemed to have a smile and a warm greeting for me.*

She definitely cared about people and their needs. She took an interest in our college age son and encouraged him to attend a missions class, even paying his way to do so.

As she and Richard dealt with his Parkinsons Disease we got to spend more time around them, often attending Parkinson support group meetings together. It was a treat to have her share some of her many stories during these times. She had a great way of story telling and had many experiences to share from her rich life of walking with the Lord. Usually there was a bit of a giggle in her voice as she talked and never a complaining attitude. I loved to hear these stories told in Louise's way with such detail and precision.

May the memories you as a family share bring you great joy and hope in God's gracious hand of guidance and direction in our lives. Reading the story of God's leading in Louise's life is such a testimony to His goodness and faithfulness. Thank you for sharing it.

Carrie McNeal - February 15, 2021 at 08:20 PM

EA

“ Louise, our dear sweet Louise. She reminded my brother and I of our mother. I told her that one time and she just smiled. I loved to tease her and tell her stories that would make her laugh or just smile. I loved her smile, her gentleness, her enjoyment of life, her love of family and friends, her joy in the Lord, her gentle spirit, and her faithfulness. When I read what others said about our Louise, it made me smile, because all of the things that were said about her was so true of our Louise. My brother and I loved picking her up from Friendsview for Bible study and then taking her home. Many times we would go with her to the cafeteria for lunch. She always wanted to treat us, but every once in awhile we would sneak in a payment for a treat to her. We loved to hear her life story, her years as a missionary and her life as a mother to Heidi, Sonja, Carl and Victor. She was a true example of a godly lady who the Loved and served Him faithfully. As I said, she reminded us of our mother and I think that is why she meant so much to us. I miss her smiles and hugs. I just miss her, but I will see her some day in heaven. I could go on and on, but I know all of you know what a good and faithful servant and friend she was. She wasn't able to do much the last couple of years, but she was extremely faithful in prayer for her love ones and friends. I know the angles rejoiced for a faithful servant came Home.

PS: my brother Merrit always called her Mrs. Madsen. I use to also, but she told me one day, that her name was Louise and she wanted me to use it. We will never forget her.

Heidi, Sonja, Carl and Victor, we pray for all of you as you go through this trying time. It is very difficult losing a parent, no matter how old we are. May you find peace and comfort as Jesus wraps His loving arms around you. God Bless you all.

Earline Apple - February 13, 2021 at 04:39 PM

ME

“ I visited Louise at Friendsview in Newberg a couple years ago. She and Milli Laughlin and I had lunch together in the dining hall. Louise entertained us with a jolly recounting of her pet lion. I think it was a lion. If not, it was one of those big cats of the jungle. I encouraged her to write up her story for the mission's social media page, but I don't know if she ever did.

Marilyn Escher, WorldVenture Senegal, temporarily at Mary Anne Lattin's in Tacoma WA (She and I have been much in prayer for you all ever since we learned of Louise's getting weaker.)

Marilyn Escher - January 21, 2021 at 05:14 PM

CP

“ What a wonderful woman! Absolutely Proverbs 31. Her dear presence was an example of graciousness and love. She served with gladness and met the challenges of her life with the strength of God. Taking on a family that was not of her own making, made them her own, without conflict or doubt. The ones she loved in Africa will be her crowning glory, as well as those she loved in America. May Grace and Peace pervade each family member. "In His presence is fullness of joy. At His right hand, there are pleasures forever more."
Bigelow Family

Celeste Persson - January 21, 2021 at 05:05 PM

DJ

“ Heidi, Sonja, Carl and Victor, you are in my thoughts and prayers as I learned earlier today of your Mom's passing. Ruth and I met your Mom in Brussels in the summer of 1958 when we drove from Paris (where we were in French Language Study) to Brussels to attend the World's Fair. Our daughter, Brenda, was only 14 months old at that time and your Mom graciously offered to take care of her while we attended the fair. Never did we realize then that we would one day in the future have many hours of fellowship with your Mom and Dad in their home in Singa as I became the Director of Africa Ministries for the mission. When thinking of your Mom, I have several memories - what a classy lady...what a gracious hostess...what a committed encourager...how wonderfully gifted to be a teacher. Of course, I have also the memory of going down the hill to the well and being "attacked" by that ferocious gorilla!...of watching Carl identify so beautifully with his African soccer-mates. We didn't get to know real well those of you who attended Rift Valley but we have followed you through the years of fellowship with your parents. My Ruth will be welcoming your Mom having taken her step into eternity in May 2019. May the peace of our gracious heavenly Father abide with you as you deal with your loss. As the song goes, "does Jesus care when I say goodbye to the dearest in life to me?....He cares...Oh, yes, He cares, His heart is touched with our grief." May His richest blessing be yours.

Dick Jacobs - January 21, 2021 at 04:12 PM

MS

Dear Heidi, Sonja, Carl and Victor, we are praying for you in these days as you remember and celebrate Louise's homegoing. Bill and I were new missionaries living in South Kivu in Bukavu, Zaire, in 1979, first coming as MAC workers. We did not get to know Louise well for several reasons, one being geography there, as they were in the northern area of our then CBFMS work and I believe they retired not long after our return as career missionaries after language study in Paris. Though we had only a few encounters, I remember Louise as gentle, gracious and a pretty lady who was encouraging to me. She was a colleague, I was sure, from whom I could have learned much. (And we were sorry not to have seen the "Singa Gorilla." Our four children would have loved that.) Thank you for the wonderful biographical history you have added. May you find comfort and joy in that legacy God has given you through Louise. Grace and peace, Bill and Mary-Ellen Stroup

Mary-Ellen Stroup - January 21, 2021 at 04:47 PM

ML

*Dear Heidi, Sonja, Carl and Victor,
Your mom and dad were part of the missionary family I grew up with at Bethesda. I remember picking raspberries in your grandparent's field. Louise went out as a single missionary. The Lord gifted her with your dad and four children when your birth mom was welcomed into heaven. The Lord led you kids to encourage your dad in choosing Auntie Louise to be your new mom. Now she has joined the others in heaven with her Savior. What a Christmas!
It was a joy to visit Louise in Newberg and also stay with her at Friends View. It was a privilege to have her stay with me with one of you after my retirement from Senegal in my apartment a couple of times in a visit to Tacoma. I was so thankful for her example as she lost abilities of sight, etc.
You have been and continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. You are welcome to come visit me in Tacoma anytime. Sonja has my address and phone number. Love you guys.
Mary Anne Lattin*

Mary Anne Lattin - January 22, 2021 at 12:58 PM